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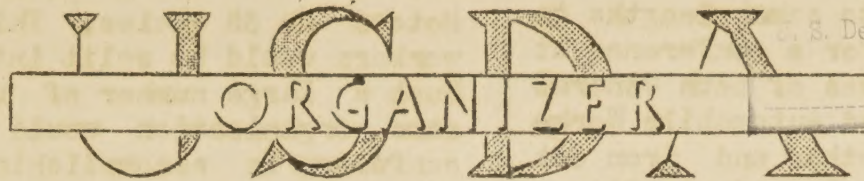




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JUL 24 1937

U. S. Department of



American Federation  
of  
Government Employees

Lodge 31

A.F.G.E.

Affiliated with  
American Federation  
of Labor

Vol. 2, No. 1

January--February, 1937

### THE GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE ACTS

Grievance work in behalf of the employees is one of the more tangible evidences to show that Lodge 31 is carrying out its proper functions. Since this spells better jobs, better working conditions, and protection against job discrimination, the employees of the Department of Agriculture who are not yet members of Lodge 31 will find it to their benefit to become members.

Your Grievance Committee has recently achieved the following:

1. Administrative officials have recognized Lodge 31 as a collective bargaining agent for Agriculture employees.
2. The union was successful in securing action against a Division that was discriminating against union members. Administration officials agreed to immediately remedy this and make a thorough investigation of working conditions and promotions in this bureau.
3. The Committee has handled personal grievances of employees who have been discriminated against. At present there are two such cases before responsible officials.

Your Grievance Committee proposes to act shortly on the following:

1. A Promotion Agreement with the Department in regard to departmental vacancies. The purpose of this all-embracing Agreement will be:
  - a. To fill vacancies by promotion from within the personnel;
  - b. To assure those working within the Department that they will receive such promotions on the basis of seniority, efficiency and ability;
  - c. To lay the groundwork for a CAREER SERVICE in the Department of Agriculture.

Responsible officials in this department have spoken in favor of a progressive attitude in carrying out the spirit of the Civil Service Act. We expect, therefore, cooperation from Department officials in negotiating our Agreement.



## GENERAL MOTORS COMPLICATES NEGOTIATIONS IN AUTO STRIKE

Secretary of Labor Perkins declared that Alfred P. Sloane, Jr., president of General Motors, "ran out" on the third strike parley which she had arranged. Twice previously Secretary Perkins had gone to some lengths to prepare the ground for a conference at which representatives of both General Motors and the United Automobile Workers might get together and iron out differences. Twice President Sloane declined to attend such conferences. Finally, said Madame Perkins:

"He had agreed to have his people attend a conference in Michigan which was to have been called by Gov. Frank Murphy. It was to have been Monday or Tuesday. He asked me to withhold announcement until he had time to check with his people.

"Then he called up from New York and said it was all off. In other words, he ran out on me. It was really an extraordinarily bad situation. I had made all arrangements."

Pres. Sloane's actions would seem to indicate a confession of lack of legitimate grounds for refusing the demand of the United Automobile Workers for a single, effective union to do the collective bargaining for the employees. This is the main issue at stake.

After the strike broke and General Motors realized the strength of the employees, Sloane then agreed to allow

union agents to negotiate with individual plant superintendents. The auto workers objected to such an arrangement for reasons easily understood. There are 69 plants of General Motors in 35 cities. This means the workers would be split into 69 groups. Such a large number of unions in the same organization would mean untold confusion in accomplishing their purposes. Their separate aims would be played off one against the other by General Motors which is, itself, a single, integrated unit.

It is interesting to note some of the instruments employed by General Motors against the workers. For example:

Company unions which many of the workers are intimidated into joining;

Corrupt judges, such as the one owning large shares of General Motors stock who issued warrants against the strikers;

Labor spies, a number of whom were supplied by the Corporations Auxiliary Company, according to their own admission in a recent hearing before the La Follette Civil Liberties Committee.

It is because they recognize the power of all these, and many more, forces against them that the workers are willing to undergo so many hardships in order to win unity of action within their ranks.

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### MORE FUN

Hazel Donaldson, General Crops, and Abe Leviton, Dairy Industry, took the prizes for the two high scores at the Bowling Party which was sponsored by Lodge 31 on Jan. 16. The "booby" prizes went to Nellie Shaffer and Ruth Finkelstein - better luck next time, girls!

All those who attended the party had loads of fun and unanimously agreed that we should have more of them. Except for an ache here and there, your reporter too agrees that it was a fine afternoon and hopes that before long a similar party will be arranged.

\* \* \* \* \*

### "OUR DANCE"

The stage was set, the nite was wet -  
The scene, Wardman Park Hotel.  
The music snappy, the dancers happy -  
A plot that could only end well.

Several hours later our short play ends -  
In some of the acts we have made new friends.  
Our curtain falls on a jolly troupe -  
"It was a great dance," comes from the group

\* \* \* \*

### HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES?

C. C. Warren in Room 2760, So. Bldg. will take your lodge dues if you have not been able to get rid of them.



To the Editor:

It seems to me that A.F.G.E. Lodge 31 of the Department of Agriculture should, in behalf of its members and the Department as a whole, look into the situation in reference to the cafeteria facilities and service of the Department. It is becoming a difficult task for the average employee to eat his lunch within the time allowed him.

In addition to the larger problem of inadequate facilities, there are several smaller matters that are worthy of some attention. In the first place, the Lodge would do well to look into the possible number of commodities purchased by our Department's cafeterias and stores that are produced in plants that are listed as unfair to organized labor. I notice for one thing, that the cafeterias serve Thompson's Dairy Products; Thompson's Dairy is listed as unfair by the Washington Central Labor Union.

In conclusion, I would like to urge the Lodge to appoint a committee to conduct a friendly inquiry into the cafeteria situation on the lines previously indicated, keeping employees acquainted with the situation by reports in the Organizer. I, for one, would like an exposition of the whole fiscal set-up of the Department's various retail establishments. Two final points: the Lodge inquiry should include an examination of wages and working conditions in the cafeterias; also, the Lodge might serve the Department interest better by circulating some sort of a questionnaire among employees.

Yours truly,

"Union Member"

Editor's note:

Your suggestions have been turned over to the Executive Committee of Lodge 31, and there no doubt will be a report at an early union meeting and in the Organizer.

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USDA ORGANIZER published monthly by  
Lodge 31, A.F.G.E.

EDITOR

Dolla Cogan

ASSOCIATE EDITORS

Nellie Shaffer

Louis Matosoff

Simon Rottenberg

To the Editor:

Your request for readers' criticisms should result in a number of constructive suggestions in connection with your publication. The Organizer has steadily improved, especially in appearance. You and your staff are to be congratulated upon the fine work you have done, particularly on the last two issues.

I should like to suggest a change in just one thing--the date. For instance, the last issue, bearing the date of December, 1936, appeared on the desks in early January. This leaves an impression of lateness in distribution and subject matter. It seems to me that the Organizer should bear the date of the month in which it appears rather than the previous month.

Sincerely,

R. Spears

Editor's note:

This is a good suggestion and one which we shall try to pursue.

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WE ARE READY TO HELP

Our Grievance Committee stands ready at all times to assist any employee of the Department - members or non-members. Anyone who has a problem for the Grievance Committee should get in touch with Acting Chairman, Louis Matosoff, Room 2609, B.A.E., or any union member.





# BOOK•REVIEWS



EYELESS IN GAZA

By Aldous Huxley

Published by Harpers ..... \$2.50

Having already explored the boudoirs of Mayfair and the minds of their inhabitants, and having viewed the somber perspectives of a "brave new world" of his own making, Mr. Aldous Huxley has discovered that perhaps, after all, everything is for the best in this best of all possible worlds. That is, provided we follow the humanitarian teachings of his pacifist heroes, Prof. Miller and Anthony Beavis (alias Aldous Huxley). Such is the gospel that comes to us from the pen of this reformed skeptic in "Eyeless in Gaza."

The road that Huxley has traveled since the days of "Point Counter Point" is also the road that his new hero, Anthony Beavis chooses. The morbid and decaying atmosphere of London's intellectual centers, the boredom of a society grown tired of its own existence, the distressing symptoms of a world in decomposition have driven Beavis to the search of a new world. He finds it in Mexico in the shape of the anthropologist, Prof. Miller, whose disciple he becomes. The philosophy of Prof. Miller is vegetarianism, pacifism, and humanitarianism. His gospel is non-resistance and "mental hygiene." Such an attitude, Huxley feels, will regenerate the decaying world of violence and injustice we are living in.

The literary value of his latest work is undisputed. With his customary brilliance Huxley explores the minds of his heroes, analyzes their "conditioning" in terms of heritage and environment, and turns the searchlight of his criticism upon the frustrations and repressions of their lives. Huxley's caustic criticism of life and society has never been an easy matter to dispute. Even in "Eyeless in Gaza," where the characters are visibly inferior to those in "Point Counter Point," the note of bitterness must be accepted as authentic. "Eyeless in Gaza" breaks down then, not on the destructive but on the constructive side. After his keen analysis, he abandons all of his former conclusions for an easy optimism that cannot stand exposure to his own criticism. First he penetrates the insoluble contradictions of society and views its inevitable collapse. Then he suddenly turns about-face, abandons the logic set into motion by his own thinking, and adopts the glib belief that physical culture and non-resistance can solve the problems of a world of war, violence, crises, hunger and injustice.

The cycle of contradiction is a complete one in Huxley. He steps from absolute pessimism to an exaggerated optimism in one muddled jump. His pessimism arose from a confused conception of Man's inherent capabilities and his relation to the social system. His optimism is the result of a similar confusion, namely, the belief that Man can change his social character without changing the social climate in which he lives and which causes his degradation. The sophisticated skeptical pessimist finds salvation then, in a muddled mysticism. "The Voltaire of our days," as Huxley has been often called, becomes Candide.

Such are the contradictions of those who see the evils of our world, but cannot attempt to solve them in constructive and realistic terms.



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#### HORIZONTAL

1. Part of verb
2. Rowing implement
5. Exists
7. Spanish word
8. That which performs some function
9. State of climbing or ascending
11. Greek letter
12. Animal in South Africa
13. A combination or coalition
14. A vase or vessel
16. Edge of anything
18. Note in chromatic scale
19. Silent.
21. Denoting motion toward a place
22. Neuter pronoun
23. Essential
24. Steamship (abbr.)
25. A variety of pigeon
26. Pronoun
28. Worth
29. Part of verb
30. Pronominal adjective
31. Large body of water
32. Origin

#### VERTICAL

1. Fragment
2. Either
3. Tillage
4. Sun God
6. Sol
7. Freedom from solicitude
10. Aims
15. Rodent
17. Possessive pronoun
19. Source of coal
20. Excessive or unreasonable desire
27. Printer's measure
29. Provided

#### OUSTED LODGES FIGHT FOR REINSTATEMENT IN THE A.F.G.E.

Mr. Milton Cohen of the Securities & Exchange Commission Lodge addressed a recent meeting of Lodge 31 on behalf of the five lodges - Social Security Board, Railroad Retirement Board, Public Assistance Division, Farm Credit Administration and Securities & Exchange Commission - which were ousted from the A.F.G.E. at the last convention.

At the time they were ousted the convention also decided that Mr. Green, A. F. of L. head, and the Executive Council of the A.F.G.E. should investigate the situation. Further, if good grounds for their reinstatement should be found, Mr. Green and the Executive Council were given the authority to immediately reinstate them.

Our lodge opposed the ousting of these lodges in the first place. At the present time, we intend to use all of our influence to bring them back into the A. F. G. E. with all their rights and privileges.

The five lodges have tried to co-operate with Mr. Green and Col. Stengle, President of the A. F. G. E. Mr. Green and Col. Stengle unfortunately have not made any serious effort to clear up the matter.

On Feb. 12 the A.F.G.E. Executive Council is meeting in Washington. We hope that the Executive Council will decide on immediate reinstatement with out conditions.

We might point out that a vicious red scare was used as the means of gaining the convention's assent in throwing out the five progressive lodges. This "red scare" has, since the convention, been completely exposed for what it really was - an excuse for reactionary officials to rid themselves of progressive elements who opposed them.

THESE LODGES MUST BE REINSTATED!  
Lodge 31 and all other progressive lodges are in danger of suffering a similar fate as long as justice is denied in this case!



# JOIN LODGE 31 TODAY

Name .....	Date .....
Home Address .....	
Bureau .....	Bldg. ....
Room No. .... Office Phone No. ....	
Initiation Fee ..... \$1.00	

Fill out this blank and send in to any one of the members listed below.

A. Mack, C&S	Rm. 0130	S. Levino, BAE	Rm. 3859
A. Leviton, DI	Rm. 0624	H. Musnick, AAA	Rm. 3960
D. Ellis	Rm. 0764	J. LeClere	Rm. 4129
C. Beard, Forest Ser.	Rm. 1104	F. Paulson	Rm. 4547
C. Hirschfield, EPQ	Rm. 1429	A. Gross, Sol. Off.	Rm. 4761
E. Gallahue, AAA	Rm. 1764	N. Shaffer, EPQ	Rm. 4867
B. Bailey, Cont. Sup.	Rm. 1870	T. Flavin	Rm. 4962
S. Rottenberg, AAA	Rm. 2091	D. Murphy	Rm. 5061
M. Leatherman, C&S	Rm. 2148	A. Balls	Rm. 5110
N. Anderson	Rm. 2240	C. Swearington	Rm. 5202
S. Dannhardt, C.E.	Rm. 2416	O. Wigfield	Rm. 5727
R. McGlathery	Rm. 2552	R. Morgan	Rm. 5963
L. Matosoff, BAE	Rm. 2609	H. Newton, C&S	Rm. 6213
R. Sowell, AAA	Rm. 2754	R. Overing	Rm. 6348
C. Warren, AAA	Rm. 2760	J. Maxwell	F.S.C.C.
L. Cummings, BAE	Rm. 2833	F. Donohue, AAA	13th. & E Sts.
R. Samson, BAE	Rm. 3055	K. Bashook, SCS	207 St. Oil Bldg.
S. Byall	Rm. 3140	S. Katz, SCS	207 St. Oil Bldg.
I. Mates	Rm. 3340	B. Lash, AI	Rm. 49E Adm. Bldg.
D. Brown	Rm. 3422	E. Terry, PI	Rm. 309W Adm. Bldg.
R. Finkelstein	Rm. 3515	W. Scholl, C&S	Amor. University
J. Schricker, C&S	Rm. 3630	P. Groggins	Arlington Farm

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## LODGE 31 MEETS

While Congress is in session, Lodge 31 meets on the first and third Thursdays of each month. The next meeting will be held on Feb. 18 in Room 2050, South Building, at 8:00 p.m.